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ABSTRACT

The importance of local units in strengthening the state, regional, and national membership of the Association of Teacher Educators is emphasized. The activities of the Mercer County, West Virginia, Association of Teacher Educators are described and a copy of the constitution of this unit is appended to this document. (JD)

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FRONTIERS OF MEMBERSHIP:

THE LOCAL ATE UNIT

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Presented by

Mary Alice Kaufman

Jack Kaufman

at the

ATE

1979 Annual Meeting

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A B S T R A C T

FRONTIERS OF MEMBERSHIP:

THE LOCAL ATE UNIT

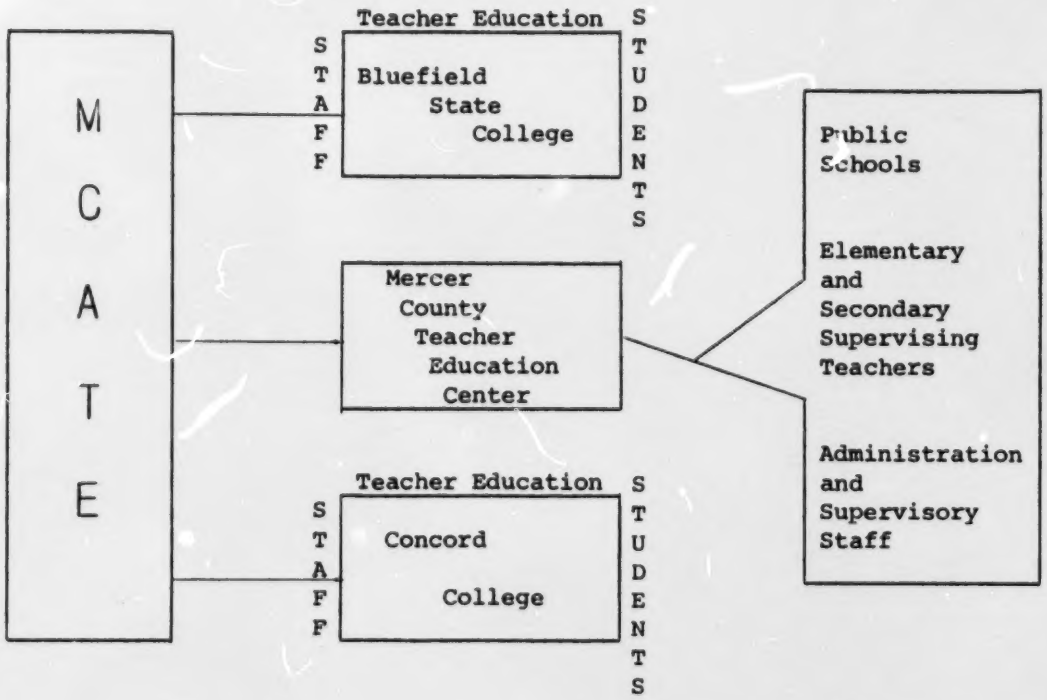
The Mercer County, West Virginia Association of Teacher Educators was organized in 1958. The present membership of approximately 300 members provides the qualified people power for active support of teacher education related activities. It is the basic contention of the authors that a strong emphasis on the establishment of local units has great possibilities for strengthening the state, regional and national membership of the ATE.

FRONTIERS OF MEMBERSHIP:

THE LOCAL ATE UNIT

by Mary Alice Kaufman
Jack Kaufman

A strong emphasis on the establishment of local units has great possibilities for strengthening the state, regional and national membership of the Association of Teacher Educators. The Mercer County, West Virginia ATE, founded in 1968, has proven to be an effective coalition for the support of teacher education. The organization has more than 300 members including teachers, student teachers, principals, supervisors, central office staff and higher education personnel. The chart below displays the membership sources.



Activities and services provided in the past year by the Mercer County ATE include:

. . . Resource persons for faculty inservice

. . . Hospitality for supervising teacher inservice

. . . Refreshments for student teacher seminar

. . . Annual membership banquet

. . . Annual presentation of scholarships to local colleges

. . . Honor outstanding educators

. . . Recognition of retired members

. . . 33 members attended the 1978 state conference

. . . Display at state conference

. . . Arranged evening entertainment at West Virginia ATE conference

. . . 4 members of Mercer County ATE attended the national ATE conference

The tangible activity and involvement of the membership has created a climate of professional pride in teacher education for our area.

The experiences of this local unit indicate that it would be beneficial to other service areas to replicate this approach for providing the qualified people power for active participation in teacher education related activities. The most useful description of the Mercer County Association of Teacher Educators can be gained by an examination of the constitution presently in force.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the "ASSOCIATION OF TEACHER EDUCATORS"

ARTICLE II - Purposes

The purposes of this Association shall be:

1. To serve as a professional clearing house, a service agency and an instrument to aid cooperating teachers, college based educators and their colleagues, including student teachers, in improving teacher education in the area.

2. To promote appropriate recognition, professional status, and professional preparation of teacher educators.

3. To cooperate with organizations directly concerned in the professional and general education of teachers.

ARTICLE III - Membership

The membership of this Association shall be open to persons in institutions engaged in teacher education, whose work is concerned with the policies, organization, administration and supervision of teacher education, broadly conceived.

Any person eligible under any of the above categories who pays the annual dues ($1.00) to the Association shall be considered a full member of this Association.

Membership in the Association shall be extended to full time students who may join the organization for an annual dues of $.50 per fiscal year, and shall have all membership privileges.

ARTICLE IV - The Officers

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer, who shall be elected annually. Upon the unanimous recommendation of the executive committee any officer may be re-elected.

Section 2. A nominating committee shall submit to the executive committee a slate of officers at each annual meeting.

Section 3. The term of office of all elected officers shall begin with the close of the annual spring meeting.

Section 4. The duties of the officers shall be those usually assigned through standard parliamentary practices. The president shall be responsible for presiding at all meetings of the Association and shall call such meetings

as are necessary for carrying out the business of the Association, and give leadership to activities deemed necessary in carrying out the purposes as set forth in Article II of this constitution. He shall serve as chairman of the executive committee. The vice-president shall carry out the above duties when the president is unable to do so. The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings and shall conduct necessary correspondence, and serve as secretary to the executive committee. The treasurer shall receive and maintain income for the Association, disburse authorized expense funds, and keep accurate records for all business pertaining to the Association.

ARTICLE V - The Executive Committee

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the duly elected officers, the retiring president, and the board of directors. The board of directors shall consist of a representative from each participating college, the coordinator of Teacher Education Center, and a cooperating teacher.

Section 2. The executive committee shall be the governing body of the Association between sessions of the annual meeting.

Section 3. The executive committee shall prepare and present an annual report of its proceedings and financial affairs to the annual business meeting for action by the Association.

Section 4. Vacancies on the executive committee shall be filled by appointments by the president, and such appointees shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE VI - Meetings

Section 1. The Association shall sponsor one annual meeting at a time and place to be designated by the executive committee. Other meetings approved by the executive committee may be arranged.

Section 2. Notification of each meeting shall be mailed to all members fifteen days in advance of the meeting.

Section 3. Members of the Association present at the annual business meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. A registration fee may be assessed to help defray expenses for the annual meeting.

Section 5. All business meetings shall be conducted under the Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedures.

ARTICLE VII - Transaction of Business

Section 1. The executive committee and officers may transact their business by mail.

Section 2. Business that involves a decision by members may be transacted by mail.

Section 3. Those matters requiring a decision may be decided by a two-thirds majority of those voting by mail ballot.

ARTICLE VIII - Amendments

Amendments to the constitution must be proposed by the executive committee, or by petition of a minimum of twenty members, and approved by two-thirds of the members voting in a mail ballot, or at a regular or special meeting of the Association.

About the authors:

Mary Alice Kaufman is an elementary teacher in the Mercer County, West Virginia Schools. She is presently serving her second term as president of MCATE. During her tenure as president, this local unit has presented displays at state, regional and national conferences of ATE.

Dr. Jack Kaufman is Chairman of the Department of Professional Education at Bluefield State College, Bluefield, West Virginia. He is the 1979 president of the West Virginia ATE.